

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of producing an immersion nozzle for continuous casting, which has a zirconia-graphite refractory applied to a powder-line portion thereof and a CaO containing compound applied to at least an inner hole portion, comprising:

burning after integrally molding, wherein said compound includes 10 mass% or more of clinker particles, each containing CaO as a mineral phase, and at least some of said clinker particles are treated with an anti-hydration treatment where mineral phase CaO exposed to an outside of said clinker particles is converted to  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

2. (Cancelled).

3. (New) A method to prevent cracks from occurring during burning of an integrally formed body in a reducing atmosphere when producing an immersion nozzle for continuous casting which has a zirconia-graphite refractory mixture applied to a powder-line portion thereof and a mixture of clinker particles applied on at least an inner hole portion of said nozzle for inhibiting a deposition of alumina

thereon, said mixture containing 10 mass% or more of said clinker particles, each of said clinker particles containing CaO as a mineral phase, and said clinker particles being treated with an anti-hydration treatment.

4. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein an outside surface of said clinker particles is converted to  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

5. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said clinker particles comprise calcia-magnesia clinker particles.

6. (New) A method for producing an immersion nozzle for continuous casting, comprising:

providing an immersion nozzle body,

applying a first mixture comprising a zirconia-graphite refractory to a powder-line portion of said immersion nozzle body,

applying a second mixture comprising clinker particles containing CaO as a mineral phase to at least a portion of an inner hole of said immersion nozzle body, said second mixture comprising 10 mass % or more of said clinker particles, and

treating said clinker particles with an anti-hydration treatment.

7. (New) The method according to claim 6, further comprising integrally molding said first mixture and said second mixture to obtain an integral product.

8. (New) The method according to claim 7, further comprising burning said integral product in a reducing atmosphere.

9. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said treating of said clinker particles with said anti-hydration treatment comprises converting an outside surface of said clinker particles to  $\text{CaCO}_3$ .

10. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said clinker particles comprise calcia-magnesia clinker particles.

11. (New) The method according to claim 6, wherein said second mixture comprises resin.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein said resin comprises phenol resin.

13. (New) The method according to claim 7, further comprising burning said integral product in a reducing atmosphere whereby the formation of cracks in said integral product during said burning is prevented.